

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR JA IN

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, TAKASHI SUZUKI

REF: TOKYO 0992

1. TAKASHI SUZUKI WAS BORN IN TOKYO IN 1911. HE GRADUATED FROM THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO IN 1935, AND WORKED AS A JOURNALIST BEFORE JOINING THE JAPANESE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1939. HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, HE DID POSTGRADUATE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

2. SUZUKI WAS SERVING IN THE US WHEN THE JAPANESE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR AND AFTER HIS REPATRIATION, HE URGED THAT JAPAN SEEK PEACE WITH THE US, AN ATTITUDE WHICH EARNED HIM A REPUTATION AS A DEFEATIST AND WHICH RESULTED IN HIS BEING PLACED UNDER KEMPEITAI (SECRET POLICE) SURVEILLANCE DURING THE LAST MONTHS OF THE WAR.

3. SUZUKI'S OTHER POSTS INCLUDE OTTAWA, MANILA, PREORITA (AS CONSUL GENERAL) AND RANGOON (AS AMBASSADOR). IN 1964 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE HAS SERVED IN THE AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, AS ASSIST-
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TANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND AS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT. (1967-70). HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS LAST POST INCLUDED BRIEFING THE EMPEROR ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND HE REPORTEDLY DEVELOPED CLOSE CONTACTS IN THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD DURING THIS PERIOD. SUZUKI HAS ALSO HELD POSTS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES.

4. SUZUKI THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HIS THREE YEARS IN RANGOON AND IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT BURMA. WHILE THERE, HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS VIGOR AND SUCCESS IN SHAPING JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARD BURMA.

5. IN CONTRAST, OFFICIALS AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN MEXICO INDICATE SUZUKI DID NOT ENJOY HIS TOUR HERE. ONE REASON MAY BE THAT BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE WERE IN POOR HEALTH DURING MUCH OF THEIR STAY. SECONDLY, SUZUKI'S MAIN INTEREST IS GLOBAL POLITICS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE PACIFIC. HE WAS REPORTEDLY DISAPPOINTED THAT MEXICO PLAYED A MINOR ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN MEXICO, SUZUKI DISPLAYED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM ABOUT MEXICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT MUCH INTEREST IN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. NEITHER SUZUKI NOR HIS WIFE, MIYOKO, LEARNED SPANISH WHILE HERE.

6. SUZUKI IS KNOWN TO BE DILIGENT, HONEST, AND PLEASANT. HE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND IS REPORTEDLY PRO-US AND ANTI-COMMUNIST. HIS HOBBIES ARE GOLF, ROCK-COLLECTING, AND JAPANESE ART, AND WHILE IN MEXICO HE GAVE AT LEAST ONE LECTURE ON JAPANESE ART. MIYOKO IS SUZUKI'S SECOND WIFE; HIS FIRST MARRIAGE ENDED IN DIVORCE. THE SUZUKIS HAVE NO CHILDREN.
THOMPSON

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